

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following comments, is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 7-9, 13-17, 20-23 and 25-43 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend Claims 5, 7, 13, 16, 17, 20-23, and 31-34, cancel Claims 1-4, 6, 10-12, 18, 19 and 24 and add new claims 38-43.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 10 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention; Claims 1-2, 4 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Oh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,818) in view of Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,8887); Claims 3, 6, 11 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Oh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,856,818) in view of Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,8887) and further in view of Okumura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,850); and Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Okumura et al. in view of Quanrud (U.S. Paten No. 6,339,417). Claims 25-30 and 35-37 were allowed. Claims 7-9, 13-17 and 20-23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response to the rejection of Claims 5 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Claims 5 and 31-34 are amended, without adding new matter, to address the deficiencies identified in the outstanding Office Action.

In particular, Claim 5 is amended to change “the valid digital pixel data” to “a valid digital pixel data.” Claim 31 is amended to change “the inputted operation mode” to “an inputted operation mode.” Claim 32 is amended to change “the invalid bits” to “invalid bits,” “said operation mode designation signal” is change to “said imputed operation mode

indicating signal” and “the designated bits” is changed to “indicated bits.” Claim 32 is also amended to change its dependency to Claim 31. Claim 33 is amended to change “the inputted operation mode indication signal” to “an inputted operation mode indication signal.” Claim 34 is amended to change “said operation mode” to “the inputted operation mode.”

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 5 and 31-34 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are in condition for allowance.

New Claims 38-43 depend from Claim 5. Support for Claims 38-43 is in original Claims 2-4, 6, 10 and 11 respectively, for example, and therefore, the addition of Claims 38-43 is not believed to raise an issue of new matter.

Claims 7, 13, 16, 17 and 20-23 are rewritten in independent form and the Office Action states that these claims would then be allowable.¹

Consequently, in view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection is overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Office Action, page 6.